

ART. XVII.—*Description of two new Australian Lizards,*
Varanus spenceri and Diplodactylus bilineatus.

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Varanus spenceri, sp. n.

Description.—Snout very short, depressed at the end, measuring about one-fifth less than the distance from the anterior border of the orbit to the ear; canthus rostralis not very distinct. Nostril oval, distant from the end of the snout about one-third less than its distance from the orbit. Limbs stout; digits strong, moderately elongate. Tail swollen and depressed at the base, compressed with a doubly toothed keel posteriorly, a little longer than the head and body. Upper head scales larger than those on the temples, subequal; supraocular scales very small, granular, subequal. Scales of upper surfaces small, varying in size and shape, round or oval, convex, sometimes tubercular. Abdominal scales smooth, flat, in from 115 to 120 transverse series. Upper and lateral caudal scales tubercular at the base, bluntly keeled posteriorly.

Colour.—Pale yellowish-brown above, with numerous broad, dark brown bands on the back and sides, usually rising alternately to right and left from the vertebral line; head with or without dark brown blotches and streaks. Tail with dark brown annuli, under surfaces uniform pale yellowish-brown.

DIMENSIONS OF TYPE.

Total length	-	-	-	-	76.5	cm.
From tip of snout to gular fold					13	„
From gular fold to vent	-	-			25	„
Max. width of head	-	-			3.5	„
Fore limb	-	-	-	-	10	„
Hind limb	-	-	-	-	13	„
Tail	-	-	-	-	38.5	„

Habitat.—Table lands 50 miles to N.E. of Tennant's Creek, Central Australia.

We have named this fine species after Professor Baldwin Spencer, F.R.S., who obtained fine specimens on the Spencer-Gillen expedition, and who, during his travels in Central Australia, has added so much to our knowledge of the fauna of those little known regions.

Type, in the National Museum, Melbourne.

The specimen chosen for the type is the largest perfect individual, although apparently not fully grown. Two other imperfect specimens in the series under examination attain a total length respectively of 81 cm. (tail reproduced) and a skin 110 cm. Tail, 52 cm.

This species belongs very clearly to group III. B2 of Boulenger in the British Museum Catalogue, viz., *V. varius*, *V. giganteus*, *V. gouldii*. The members of the group are not differentiated by very strongly marked characters. The chief points of distinction are the shape of the nostril and its position, and the number of transverse rows of abdominal scales. The colour markings are very variable, as is the number of well marked rows of abdominal scales.

The present species differs from all these in the comparative shortness of the tail, in which character it agrees with *V. brevicauda*, Boulenger.

Diplodactylus bilineatus, sp. n.

Description.—Head rather short, high, convex. Snout pointed, scarcely longer than the distance between the eye and the ear opening, latter small, vertically oval. Body moderate; limbs rather short. Digits rather long, moderately depressed with rounded tubercles below; apical dilations with two suboval plates inferiorly. Upper surfaces covered with small granular scales, largest on the middle of the back. Rostral large, not twice as broad as high, with trace of median cleft above; nostril pierced between the rostral, first labial, and five or six nasals, the supero-anterior large, and in contact with each other. Seventeen upper labials, first very high; fifteen lower labials, anterior large. Mental large, subtriangular, rounded behind.

Abdominal scales granular, smaller than the dorsal. Tail swollen, contracted at the base, tapering very rapidly, with rings of suboval scales, convex above, and flat, imbricate beneath. Male with a group of five or six blunt spines on each side of the base of the tail.

Colour.—Pinkish-brown above, a broad black-edged light band along the middle of the back and tail, bifurcating on the nape and extending to behind the orbit, enclosing a dark subtriangular patch on the occiput; a few small dark dots occur in the light median area. The black edges bordering the lighter vertebral band are produced in two conspicuous but discontinuous black lines extending to the very tip of the tail.

DIMENSIONS.

Total length	-	-	-	-	88 mm.
Head	-	-	-	-	10 „
Width of head	-	-	-	-	9 „
Body	-	-	-	-	48 „
Fore limb	-	-	-	-	15 „
Hind limb	-	-	-	-	18 „
Tail	-	-	-	-	30 „

Habitat.—Caernarvon, Western Australia.

Type, in the National Museum.

This is a form allied to *D. steindachneri*, Boulenger, but differs in the oval ear opening, the greater number of labials, the absence of a fringe of conical scales to the upper eyelids, in the abdominal scales considerably smaller than the dorsal, and greatly in the relative measurements of head and body. In *D. steindachneri* the body is 2.3 times as long as the head, in *D. bilineatus* it is 4.8 times as long. In colour our species is conspicuous by the two dark longitudinal bands reaching to the tip of the tail, whilst there are no dorsal ocelli which are so marked in *D. steindachneri* as figured in the British Museum Catalogue.